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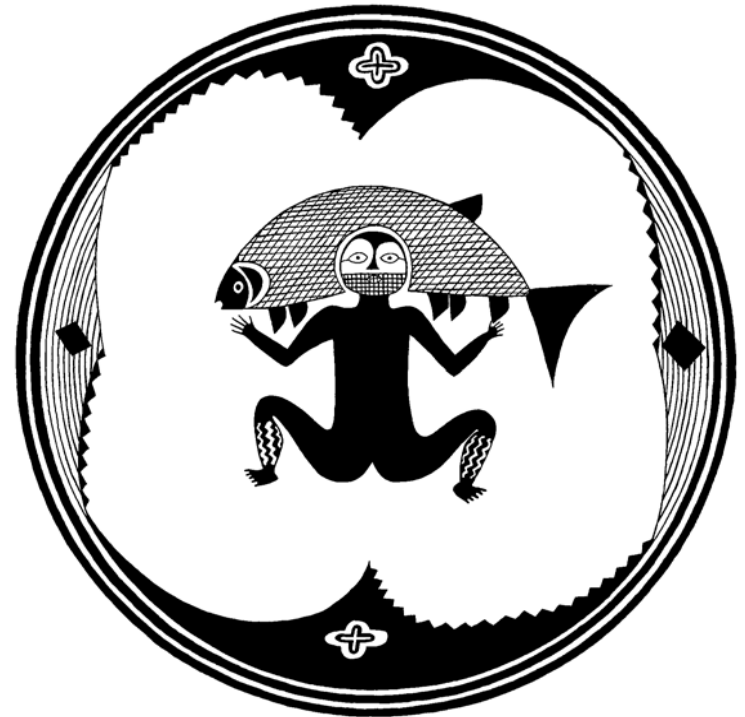
El Paso Museum of Archaeology



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For countless generations the people of the American Southwest and Mexico have told this story of the time before there was a Sun or a Moon or even stars in the sky.



A very long time ago, there were twin brothers who were destined to be heroes. Their father was the Evening Star, who we call the planet Venus, and *his* twin brother was the Morning Star.



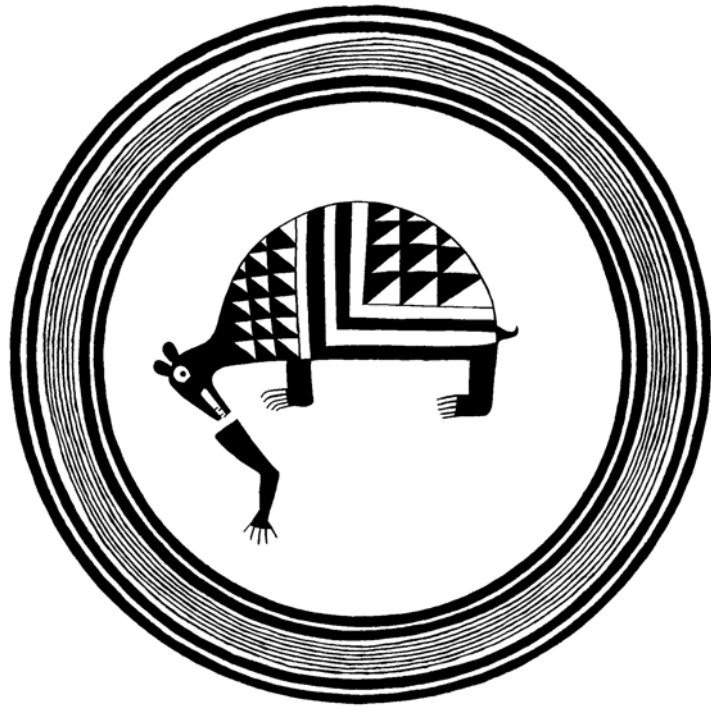
The twin boys were raised by their grandmother, Spider Woman. She was a very wise old woman, and very important to the people of the Earth. Just as a spider knows how to weave a web, Spider Woman also had the knowledge of weaving, which she gave to the people.

The twins were not identical. The older twin, or first born, was bigger than his brother, and right-handed. The younger twin was smaller and left-handed.



As the boys grew, a horrible giant monster and his two sons were roaming the Earth. These creatures were arrogant and prideful. The father proclaimed himself to be the Sun and the Moon and his giant sons were harming the Earth by

moving mountains and leveling mountains. The twins decided they must stop the monsters' destruction of the Earth. They set out to find the monsters and destroy them.



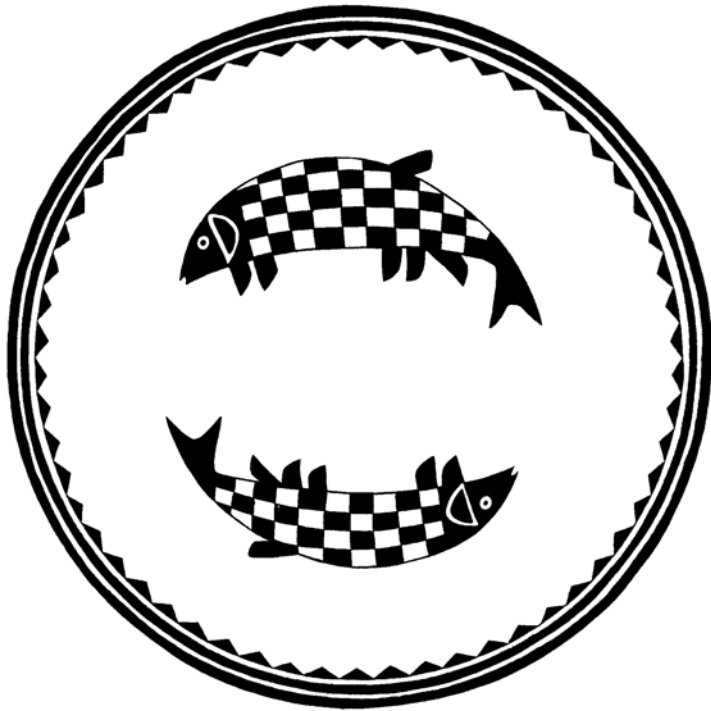
During a battle with the father monster, the beast tore off the older twin's left arm. His younger brother killed the monster, and retrieved the arm. He then magically reattached it to the older twin's

shoulder. They then killed the beast's giant sons, so that no more harm would come the Earth.



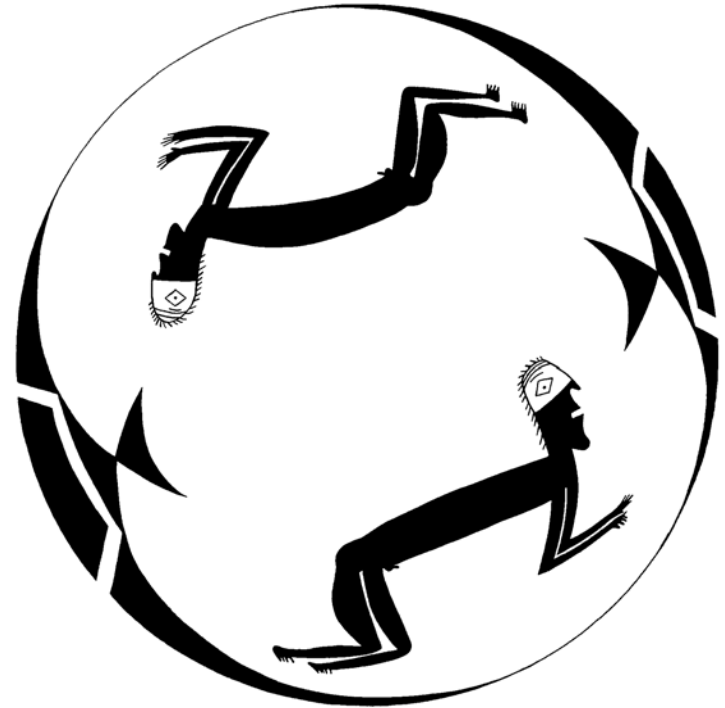
The boys were then summoned by the lords who ruled the Underworld, the watery place beneath the surface of the Earth where people went when they died and turned into fish. The souls of the dead would then swim around the Underworld for

all of Eternity. These lords of the Underworld had names like Death and Disease.



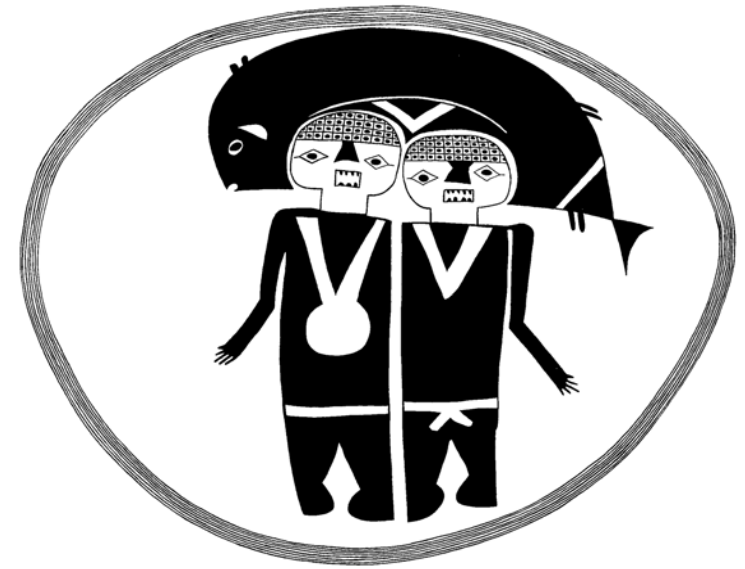
Before the twins had been born, the lords of the Underworld had summoned their father and uncle, who became the Evening and Morning Stars. The lords had been angered by their noisy ball playing and had lured them to the Underworld.

There the lords of the Underworld had tricked them and killed them.



The twin boys knew the lords of the Underworld wanted to kill them too. They descended to the Underworld and survived many ordeals through their magical abilities. But they knew the lords of the Underworld would never give up, so they made a plan.

The twins realized they would have to pretend they were dead to destroy the lords and escape from the Underworld. They pretended to die by leaping into a great bonfire, then from the ashes they turned themselves into fish to fool the lords into believing they were really dead.



This was all part of their plan. They disguised themselves as dancers and magicians, and then went to the court of the lords of the Underworld. They knew the only way they could destroy the lords and escape the Underworld was to trick them.

At first they danced for the lords of the Underworld, the dances of many different animals. Then they burned the houses of the lords, and then made them reappear unburned.

They performed many tricks to entertain the lords of the Underworld, but none were as amazing as their final trick.

The younger twin cut off his brother's head, but his older brother did not really die because his head was still attached by an invisible thread of life. The younger twin then put his brother's head back on his body, and the older twin jumped back to life.



The lords of the Underworld were all amazed. They thought this was a very good trick and asked the boys if they could perform the trick on all of them. The boys said yes.

They cut off the heads of all the lords, but they didn't put their heads back on. In this way, the twins destroyed all the lords of the Underworld terrorizing the people of the Earth, and escaped the Underworld.



Having defeated Death, the boys returned from the Underworld. They were now the Hero Twins, and suddenly they were lifted into the sky and transformed into the Sun and the Moon. Because the hero twins defeated Death, they made it possible for all people to survive the trials of the Underworld and ascend to the sky to become the stars, just as they did.



The older twin became the Sun, which is often portrayed by the people of Mexico and the Southwest as a deer. The younger twin became the Moon, which is often portrayed as a rabbit, because the people of Mexico and the Southwest see a rabbit in the Moon. And now, maybe *you* will see the rabbit in the Moon too.

